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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

11 December 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bill Johnson, Intelligence Liaison Staff

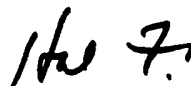
FROM: Harold P. Ford, NIO at Large
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Dissents in National Estimates

1. The National Intelligence Council relies on a rather elaborate NIE drafting and coordination process to ensure that differing points of view are debated during the production of national estimates.

2. Representatives from all agencies of the Intelligence Community participate in developing concepts to be considered by an estimate, and they are involved in coordinating the completed draft of the paper. The process guarantees that all analytical opinions receive a full hearing and that no single view automatically prevails.

3. Strong held differing views may (a) be persuasive enough to become the stated view of all; (b) be refuted and dropped; or (c) be maintained by the sponsoring agency and appear in the estimate as a formal dissent.



Harold P. Ford

Signer
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